

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: CHARLOTTESVILLE (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	6/30/72

1. NAME

COMMON:
ALBEMARLE COUNTY COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR HISTORIC:
ALBEMARLE COUNTY COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(see continuation sheet page 1-A)

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlottesville (James Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 540

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) County seat
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
varied - Public and Private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Continuation Sheet)

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2.

Western Boundary: eastern side of Fourth Street; southern boundary: the rear property lines of the lots facing into the south side of East Jefferson Street between Fourth Street and Sixth Street; eastern boundary: the rear property lines of the lots facing onto the west side of Park Street between E. Jefferson Street and High Street, including 220-224 Court Square; northern boundary: southern side of High Street between Park Street and Fourth Street.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated near the center of present-day Charlottesville, the Court Square preservation zone is composed of a rectangular green bounded on the southern and eastern sides by streets lined with detached early and mid-nineteenth century brick houses and public buildings as well as structures of a later date. Unlike the crossroads formed by the other three corners of Court Square, the southeast corner included within the zone at the junction of Park and East Jefferson Street follows a different road pattern. East Jefferson Street extends east past the south end of Park Street and forms a dog-leg south along old Sixth Street.

The T-shaped Albemarle County Court House, located on the east side of the green, combines the Federal period northern wing with a late nineteenth century Greek Revival style portico. A brick terrace laid in panels of herring bone design paves the ground in front of the portico, and brick walkways wind through the Square, entered at three points by stone steps. The broad lawns of the green shaded by a variety of trees and shrubs are outlined by low stone retaining walls broken occasionally by end blocks serving to flank each stairway. To the left of the Court House stands a two-and-a-half story modern Clerk's Office built in the Colonial Revival style. An equestrian statue of Stonewall Jackson occupies the western region of the Square known as Jackson Park and a Confederate sentinel and cannons guard the southern facade of the Court House.

Along the east side of the Square on Park Street are found three distinctively different nineteenth century buildings. The old Levy Opera House on the northeast corner is built in an unusually robust interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Next to the Opera House stands the Redland Club, built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Across Old County Road in the southeast corner of Park Street is located a two story Federal duplex, characterized by its gable end facade. In addition, two rows of brick townhouses, the first along the top of Sixth Street and the second between 410 and 416 East Jefferson Street, have been preserved by the successful combination of elements of early and mid-nineteenth century buildings with later structural components.

The vista south down Park Street is closed by the three story annex of the Monticello Hotel. The old Eagle Hotel, as it was first called, has a recessed central bay suggesting an in antis effect with brick pilasters flanking the side units. The following is a descriptive list of some of the more prominent buildings included in the Court Square preservation zone.

1. Albemarle County Court House
(104-9) Brick laid in Flemish bond, two stories, gable roof, five-bay front, three-bay Ionic portico, modillioned cornice, molded watertable, flat arch stucco lintels, molded architraves and sills, interior end chimneys. North ell: octagonal cupola with bell roof, six-panel doors with eight-light transoms, flat molded stone steps, diminution of the fenestration, fieldstone foundation. Built in Federal period with Greek Revival style portico; north ell built 1803; southern facade built post Civil War.
2. Levy Opera House
(104-7) Brick laid in American bond with a Flemish bond variant, three stories, hipped roof, three-bay front, heavy entablature supported by monumental stuccoed pilasters on brick pedestals, crossette architraves,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7.

Levy Opera House (cont.)

brick watertable. Greek Revival; built circa 1851; three-bay entrance porch with double-tiered back porch added.

3. Redland Club

(104-36)

Brick, two stories, gable roof, four-bay second story front, parapet wall and connected double interior end chimneys on south gable end, brick corbeled cornice, simple molded architraves, six-panel double door with four-light transom. Built circa 1832; front windows changed to eight-over-eight sash, four-bay porch with turned posts added in the rear.

4. No. "Nothing"

(104-32)

Brick laid in Flemish bond, two stories, gable roof, four-bay pedimented gable end front with fanlight, flat arch lintels, three-paneled solid and two-paneled louvered shutters, nine-over-six sash, six-panel doors with three-light transom and stone steps, paneled door reveals. Built circa 1823; later addition on the east side.

5. Eagle Tavern

(104-30)

Brick, three stories, hipped roof, three-bay first floor front with five-bay upper floors, recessed central bay suggests in antis motif with brick pilasters flanking the two-bay sides, molded cornice and brick frieze, cast iron balustrade along the central bay balconies, double doors centrally located. Greek Revival style; built mid-nineteenth century; rear wing addition.

100 Court Sq. ^

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Court Square in Charlottesville was not only an area regularly frequented by such noteworthy figures of history as Presidents Jefferson, Madison and Monroe and the brave rider Jack Jouett, Jr. but was the focal point from which the entire town developed and grew. Although transition was inevitable, the court house and grounds have been the stabilizing forces helping to preserve the character of the area for over two hundred years. Today because of the maintenance of the building scale and size it is still possible without an undue use of the imagination to recapture the image of former days when in 1779, Captain Anbury, a British prisoner, wrote, "On our arrival at Charlottesville, this famous place we had heard so much of consisted of a courthouse, one tavern and about a dozen houses."

The town of Charlottesville was established with the intention of bringing the seat of county government north from Scottsville to a more centrally located region of Albemarle County and the Court House Square became the center of the early town's attention. In 1761 one thousand acres were purchased from Colonel Richard Randolph of Henrico, and Doctor Thomas Walker was appointed as trustee of the title and was therefore authorized to sell the land of the new town. The Court House, being the property of the county, was located outside the original town limits, adjacent to its northern boundary. Initially Court Square was laid out to imitate an English Green, encircled by houses not streets. The impracticality of the plan proved too great and streets were soon cut along each of the four sides.

The first Albemarle Court House in Charlottesville was commissioned to be built in 1762 by William Cabell. Built to be the exact size as that of Henrico County, the building was however of such slight construction that it was torn down and in 1803 the north ell or earliest portion of the present court house was constructed. This north wing was the heart of public life in early Charlottesville and it was here that Thomas Jefferson worshipped on Sunday since the churches of the community used the building in rotation, as Mr. Jefferson put it, for their "Common temple". The court house attracted many citizens to the area and it was not unusual to find Mr. Jefferson conversing with James Madison and James Monroe in the area of the Court Square.

In the north corner of the east side of the Square the town Battery was located until in 1851 the land was purchased and a town hall was built. Occupying one of the most prominent positions on the Court Square, the town hall was actively used and well suited for many forms of public entertainment. Recognizing the potential of the building, the town

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hall was purchased in 1887 by Mr. Jefferson M. Levy and converted into the Levy Opera House.

In its day the Levy Opera House attracted some of the best entertainment in the South to Charlottesville. Crowds were lured by such contemporary entertainers as Joseph Jefferson who appeared in "Rip Van Winkle" and John Bunny whose performance in "The Old Homestead" was equally popular.

Taverns also played a vital role in the early days of the town. Next to the Levy Opera House stands the men's Redland Club, built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century on the location of the earlier Swan Tavern which was first constructed about 1773. The proprietor of the tavern was none other than Jack Jouett, Sr. whose son made the eventful ride in 1781 from Cuckoo Tavern in Louisa County to Charlottesville in order to warn the Legislature and Governor Thomas Jefferson of the approach of Colonel Banastre Tarleton's raiders. Although the Swan Tavern has disappeared, the Eagle Tavern built in the early nineteenth century remains as the east wing annex of the Monticello Hotel located on the south side of the Square.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, James, Early Charlottesville, The Michie Company, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1942.
 Burnley, W. Sam, The Court House of Albemarle County, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1939.
 Rawlings, Mary, The Albemarle of Other Days, The Michie Company, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1925.
 Woods, Rev. Edgar, Albemarle County in Virginia, C. J. Carrier Co., Bridgewater, Virginia, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 01' 57"	78° 28' 45"				
NE	38° 01' 57"	78° 28' 35"				
SE	38° 01' 50"	78° 28' 35"				
SW	38° 01' 50"	78° 28' 45"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE January, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia CODE 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date JAN 18 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

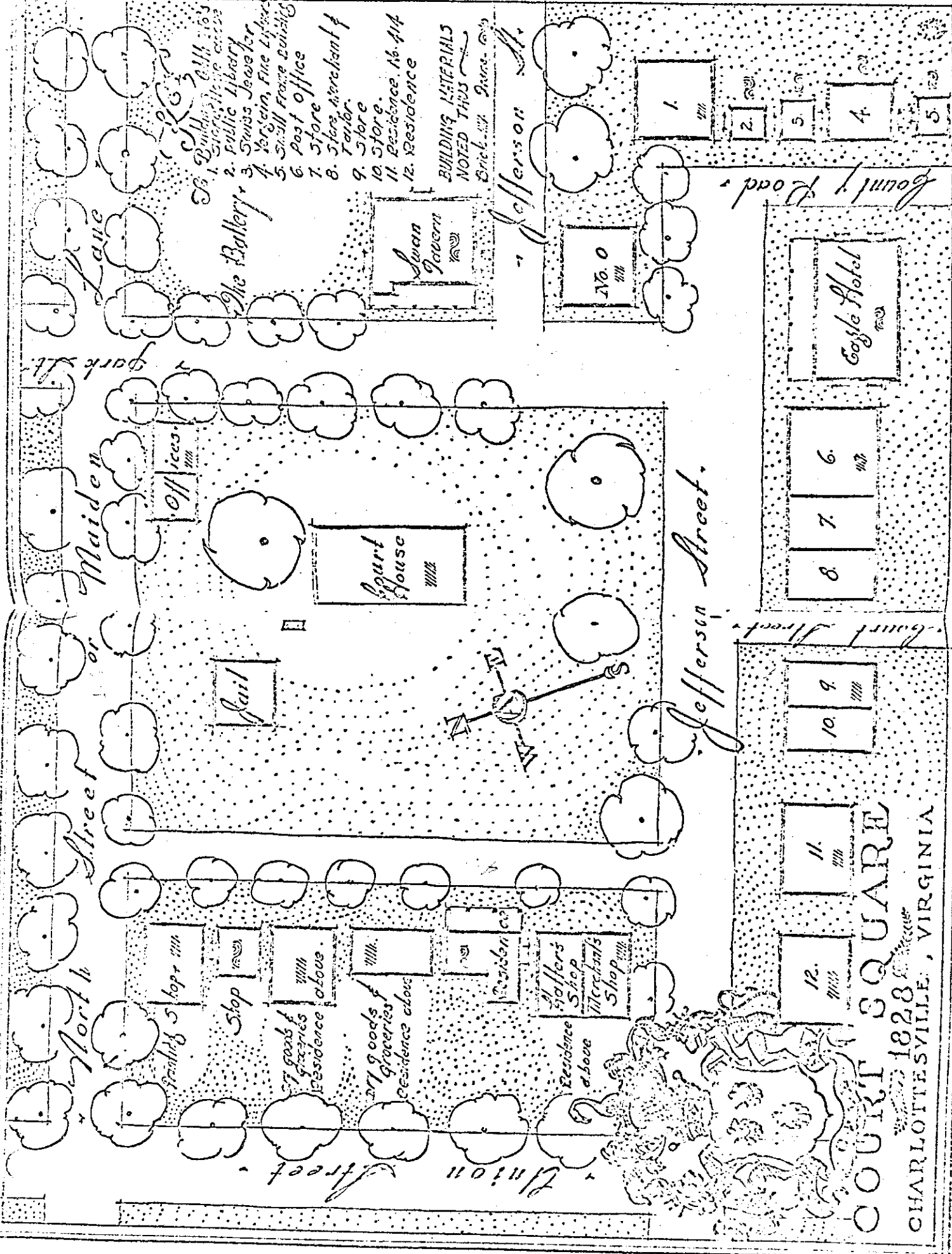
Date _____

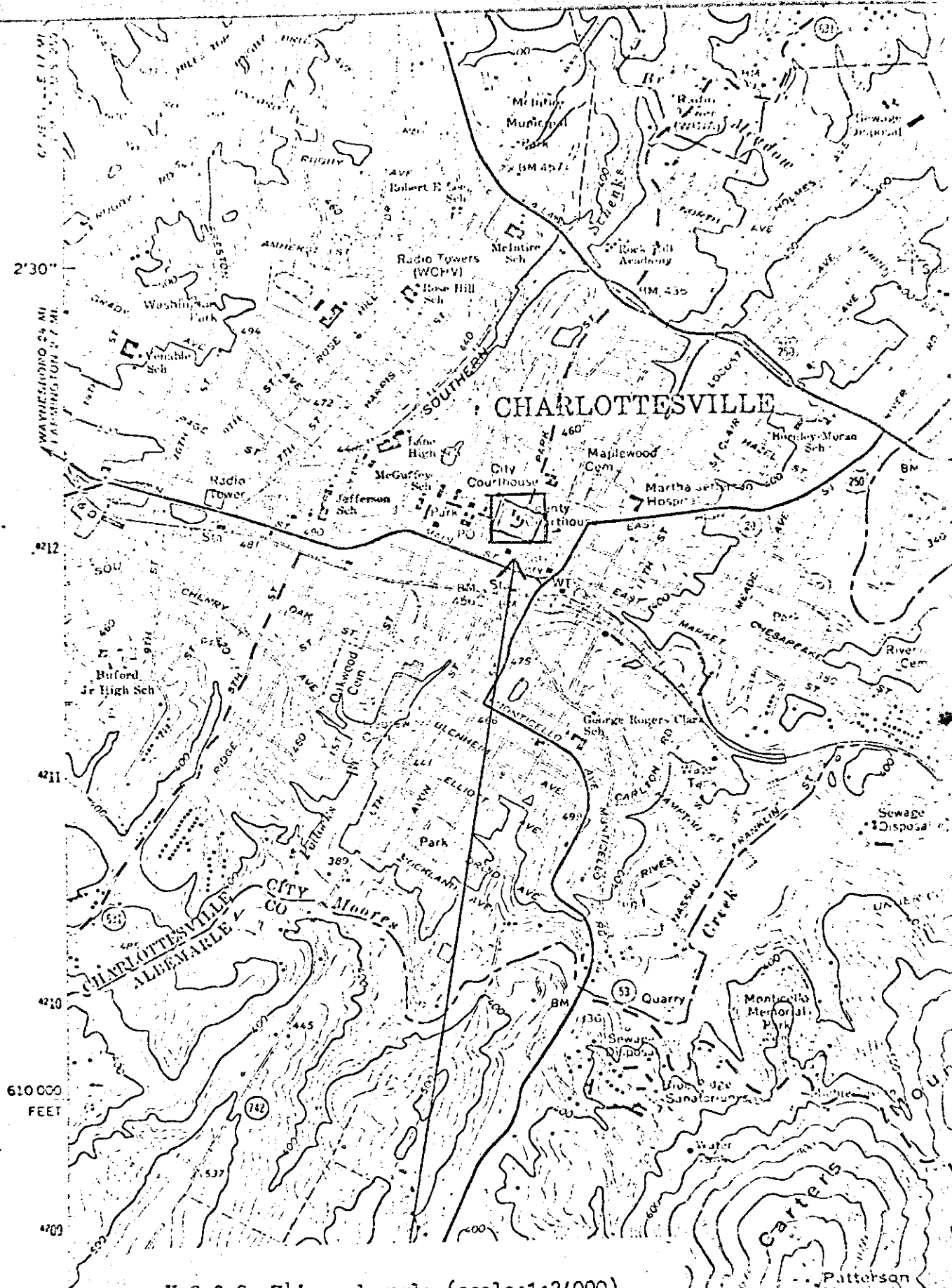
ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/30/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
 Charlottesville East, Va. 1964

38°00'
 78°30'

10,000 FEET 23. 27'30"

ALBERENE
 2001 NE

Mapper	ALBEMARLE COUNTY COURT HOUSE	latitude	longitude
Control		NW38°01'57"	78°28'45"
Topogra		NE38°01'57"	78°28'35"
taken 11		SE38°01'50"	78°28'35"
Polymon			

★
 MN
 J CN

Meadows F. 104-149

Key West 02-914

Muls Cafe 104-309

Gibson's Radiator Serv 104-308

Carter Bldg II 104-307

Carter Bldg I 104-306

LCR Auto Service 104-302

Ebenezer Baptist Church 104-301

Burnley Tavern

02-147 (OLD SITE)

Bldg. 104-343

Buena Vista, 02-10

Clark, G.R., 02-242

Museum 02-242

Cochran's Mill 02-64

Pen Park 02-190

Franklin, 02-37

Flann's Tire Service 104-300

Hackins-Reery House 104-299

Hackins-Reery House 104-298

Joseph Bldg. 104-305

Rugby Road & University Corner H.D.

104-133

Ray Henry Mohr Co. 104-306

Christ Episcopal Church 104-307

104-184

Alex Sawyer House 104-319

Werland St. H.D.

104-136

ABC Store 104-297

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